(a) whether a Taj Mahotsava was organized recently to celebrate 350 years of the Taj;

(b) if so, the salient features of the celebration and the number of foreign and Indian tourists who attended the celebration; and

(c) whether the environment clearance for the celebration could not be given in time and night viewing of the Taj was withheld, since the quantum of suspended particulate matter was much more than three times of the permissible limits?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To mark the occasion of 350 years of Taj Mahal, cultural events like music, recitations and dance performance were organised at Agra Fort on 27.10.2004 and Fatehpur Sikri on 01.11.2004 by the Government of Uttar Pradesh. The following number of visitors have attended the cultural events on the above dates:

	Indian	Foreigner
Agra Fort	455	45
Fatehpur Sikri	600	200

(c) The night viewing of Taj Mahal has been held on 27-28 November, 2004 in compliance of the orders dated 25.11.2004 of the Supreme Court of India.

Preservation of Documents in National Archives

1032. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether historic documents of the East India Company and Mughal period preserved in the National Archives are in bad shape and will crumble if touched; and

(b) the action proposed to fumigate, give a complete pest control treatment and repair the building to ensure no roof leakage to save the valuable documents for posterity?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) National Archives of India takes periodic measures to fumigate documents and undertake pest control measures to eradicate insect infestation in and around the premises. The roof leakage problem has been addressed and a detailed long-term conservation plan has been drawn up for implementation over the next five year period.

Grants for protection of Heritage sites

1033. SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government supplement and release grants on the recommendations received from the Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) for protection of heritage sites;

(b) if so, the details of the funds received from EFC supplemented by Government and released to the State Governments during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise and heritage site-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that full grants have not been released to some of the States; and

(d) if so, the present status in this regard and the targeted date for settlement of the claims, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Promotion of Artifacts

1034. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to lack of care, many classical, folk and tribal artifacts are dying out in the modern lifestyle; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to promote/save these artifacts?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Government has drawn up various schemes to take care of and promote the classical, folk and tribal artifacts.